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Peking Base in Paris

By Harry B. Ellis
*Editorial Director of
 The Christian Science Monitor*

Slick Voice

Paris
 In a large apartment on the fashionable Rue Francois Premier, not far from the House of Labor, the Chinese Communist Party have headquartered a massive propaganda effort reaching out to the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and the United States.

At No. 46 of this street, in the heart of Paris near the Champs Elysees, the visitor finds the concierge for the apartment of Jacques Verges, a well-known international Communist and editorial director of the French and English language editions of Revolution, a slick paper monthly magazine committed to the Chinese Communist point of view.

Gibson's Role

When I came on the stairs two Chinese men disappeared through the unmarked door of the Verge apartment. Inside, at a dining table high with flowers, revolutions, and pictures of Mao, Ho Chi Minh, and Ho Chi Minh, I was greeted by a smiling American, Richard Gibson.

Mr. Gibson, in overall direction of the French language edition of Revolution, is in charge of the French language edition of Revolution. He is also in charge of both the French and English editions of the magazine, along with the French and English editions of the magazine, along with the French and English editions of the magazine.

san Blas of the United Arab Republic, and Castro of Cuba of Angola.

Mr. Gibson now is Foreign Minister of the new revolutionary government of Zanzibar. An editorial footnote in the latest French issue of Revolution congratulated him the warm congratulations of his editorial colleagues and wishes him and the "people of Zanzibar new success in the struggle against feudalists and neocolonialists."

The English edition of Revolution is printed in Switzerland, are usually at the modern printing plant which the Chinese Communist Government recently bought at Bern. The magazine is in its ninth month in use and has reached a circulation, according to Mr. Gibson, of about 6,900 copies.

Of this monthly total the Chinese Communists buy 3,600 copies, distributing them throughout the French-speaking Africa. About 1,900 copies go to the island of Zanzibar.

Nigeria also receives many copies, Mr. Gibson said, but Ghana none, for the reported reason that periodic distribution in that country is handled by the London Daily Worker and Revolution has not been able to crack the distribution circuit.

Printed in Paris

Apart from the 3,600 copies taken by the Chinese Communist Party, 600 subscribers in Egypt buy Revolution. About 1,500 copies go to the United States, primarily to student groups in southern cities. This would imply a Negro readership.

Mr. Verges is variously reported to have been born in Reunion Island, a French overseas department in the Indian Ocean, or in Thailand, or a Creole father and Vietnamese mother. Mr. Verges's brother Paul, whose Communist was defeated for a seat in the French National Assembly by former French Premier Michel Debre in a by-election on Reunion Island in May, 1953.

The French language edition of Revolution, a larger and slicker presentation than its counterpart in English, is printed in Paris and has a circulation of 17,000-19,000 cop-

ies, asserted to be larger than any other left-wing publication in France.

The Chinese Communist Mr. Gibson said, buy no copies of this edition. But under the cover of the February Revolution (No. 6), subscribers are offered, free, a wide variety of Chinese Communist news called "Peking Information." Also offered free of charge are any or all of over 60 titles of books and other publications published in the French language at Peking.

Neither edition of Revolution carries advertising, except of other Communist publications friendly to Peking. A copy of either edition costs 75 cents, or the equivalent in other currencies. Given the quality of their printing and such circulation, both editions must be heavily subsidized.

Spanish Edition

Mr. Gibson asserted that no one party dictated the editorial line of Revolution, though the magazine agreed with the Chinese Communist position in "current disputes." The magazine could be considered an intruder by the Soviet-orientated French Communist Party.

Now in the advanced planning stage are a Spanish edition, to be printed in Paris and aimed primarily at Latin America, and an Italian edition, to be printed in Paris and aimed primarily at Italy. Both are scheduled to appear this year. The Chinese Communist edition of Revolution is printed in the same factory as the French Revolution.

Articles in the latest English language Revolution include "The Class Struggle in Africa," "What Kind of Independence for Angola?" "Support the Panamanian People's Just Struggle," and "The Meaning of Black Revolt in the U.S.A." Appearing in the February issue of the French "Revolution" are "15 Days With the Venezuelan Magasin," "Songs of Revolt in South Africa," "Spain in Movement," "Pakistan: the Burden of American Aid," and others.

On the ground floor of the Verges apartment building is a shop selling expensive furs. Across the street is Dior, the ultimate symbol of capitalism. A few doors away is the Norwegian Embassy.